

#### **4. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS**

This application was originally filed on September 2, 1998, with claims 1-46.

In the first Office Action mailed April 3, 2000, claims 1-35 were canceled, subject to a restriction requirement. Claims 36-46 remained pending, and were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the single reference of Cloud et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,653,619).

In the first Amendment and Response filed June 28, 2000, Appellant responded to the first Office Action amending claims 36 and 43.

In the second Office Action mailed September 1, 2000, claims 36-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the single reference of Cloud et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,653,619).

In the second Amendment and Response mailed November 1, 2000, Appellant responded to the second Office Action without amending claims 36-46.

In the Advisory Action mailed December 5, 2000, the Amendment and Response mailed on November 1, 2000 was not entered in the file, and was indicated as not placing the application in condition for allowance.

In the Continuing Patent Application (CPA) filed December 21, 2000, Appellant requested that the Amendment and Response mailed November 1, 2000 be entered in the file.

In the first and final Office Action mailed February 22, 2001, claims 36-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the single reference of Cloud et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,653,619).

In the first Amendment and Response filed April 23, 2001, Appellant added new claims 47-60, and responded to the first Office Action without amending claims 36-46.

In the Advisory Action mailed 5/14/01, the Amendment and Response mailed on April 23, 2001 was not entered in the file, and was indicated as not placing the application in condition for allowance.

In the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) mailed on May 22, 2001, Appellant requested that the Amendment and Response mailed April 23, 2001 be entered in the file.

In the first Office Action mailed August 15, 2001, claims 47-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 and claims 36-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over